



**Tom Barrett**  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

For Immediate Release:  
May 15, 2007

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**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

## **Barrett Urges Feds to Invest in Local Crime-fighting Efforts**

*Mayor heads to DC to testify before Congress on Federal COPS program*

**MILWAUKEE** – Mayor Tom Barrett will travel to Washington tonight in preparation for his appearance before the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus Wednesday, May 16. Barrett is scheduled to testify on the future of the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program and other federal efforts to help cities and local communities fight crime.

**WHAT:** Public Hearing of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus  
featuring Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett

**WHEN:** 2:00 EDT, Wednesday, May 16, 2007

**WHERE:** Room B-318  
Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

“It’s time for the federal government to focus again on hometown security,” said Barrett. “Cities all across this country saw decreases in violent crime in the 90s well into 2000 as a direct result of the increased number of police officers the COPS program put on the street. We cannot deny the effect the massive de-funding of one of the most successful crime-fighting programs has had on Milwaukee and other communities.”

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From 1995 to 1999, the COPS program distributed nearly \$1 billion in hiring grants to state and local police. In 2005, the funding dropped to \$5 million. During the 1990's, the City of Milwaukee was granted over \$4 million in funding that paid for seven Police Sergeants and 52 Police Officers and related costs. Since the funding has run out, in today's dollars the cost to continue those positions would be between \$5.2 to \$5.5 million in salaries and fringe benefits.

Barrett continued, "Crime is a complex issue and successful reductions are due to many different factors, but no one can deny law enforcement is a key component. The cost of crime to our community is so large that even small reductions reap very large benefits, not just economic but societal as well. We need to continue to focus our short term strategy on reducing violent crime in our neighborhoods and our long term strategy on strengthening families, providing jobs and further economic development."

*Media are invited and encouraged to attend the hearing. To schedule an interview with Mayor Barrett, please call 414-286-8504.*